WE CLAIM:

1. A method of detecting occurrence of an event, the method comprising:

comparing a first compressed digital frame size to a later compressed digital frame size in a sequence of compressed digital image frames to determine whether a change in size exists that is greater than a predetermined amount, and, if the change in size is greater than the predetermined amount, using that determination to indicate the occurrence of the event.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the occurrence of the event is an appearance of a new object in the later compressed frame.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising periodically selecting a frame in the sequence of compressed frames after the occurrence of the event and transmitting each selected frame.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of periodically selecting selects at least one of every 10 adjacent frames during the occurrence of the event.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising performing external pattern recognition on the selected frame using an external pattern.

6. The method of claim 2, further comprising performing external pattern recognition on the later compressed frame using an external pattern and further comprising generating an alert when the external pattern recognition matches the external pattern to the new object.

7. The method of claim 8, wherein the alert includes a visual alert indicating identity of the new object.

8. The method of claim 8, wherein the alert includes an audible alert.

9. The method of claim 2, further comprising placing a tag on an image of the new object that is displayed on a monitor such that the tag facilitates following the image on the monitor as the new object moves on the monitor.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the first compressed digital frame provides an image of a stationary scene that does not contain movement therein and the later compressed digital frame includes a new object, indicating movement occurring within the scene.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising periodically selecting a frame in the sequence of compressed frames after the occurrence of the event and transmitting each selected frame.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of periodically selecting selects at least one of every 10 adjacent frames during the occurrence of the event.